GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1849
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2003
ROLE OF REGIONAL OFFICES OF FOREST DEPARTMENT
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the role of the Regional Offices of the forest department at Bangalore and other places in the country;

(b) whether such offices have an active role to play in ensuring forest development;

(c) if so, the specific role of office of RCCF;

(d) whether the Government are aware that no positive proposals emanate from such offices; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to review the functioning and utility of office of Regional C.C.F.S. of the Government?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONEMNT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEV)

(a), (b), (c), (d) & (e); The Regional Offices of the Ministry primarily monitor and evaluate the ongoing projects with specific emphasis on conservation of forest and follow up action on the implementation of the conditions and safeguards laid down by Ministry while granting clearance to developmental projects under Forest (Conservation) Act 1980/Environment (Protection) Act 1986. The Regional Chief Conservator of Forests are empowered to decide cases for diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes up to the extent of 5 hectares except mining and regularization of encroachment and examine cases involving forest land 5 hectares to 40 hectares in consultation with the State Advisory Group. They have also been delegated power to approve Working Plans of the State Governments.

While application of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 has arrested large scale diversion of forest land, scientific management of forest on sustainable basis as per approved Working Plans will help improve forest cover. The Regional offices are directed to work in accordance with the mandate given to them; however, their workings are reviewed by Ministry from time to time.